

DeKalb County Board of Registration and Elections

Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2021
*via zoom platform
Start Time: 12:00 p.m.
End Time: 1:15 p.m.

Board Attendees: Chair Dele Lowman Smith
Vice-Chair Nancy Jester
Anthony Lewis
Susan Motter
Karli Swift

Other Attendees: Twyla Hart, Interim Director
Terry Phillips, Deputy County Attorney
Shelley Momo, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Irene Vander Els, Senior Assistant County Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Ms. Jester and seconded by Ms. Motter to call this meeting to order. Motion by Ms. Jester and seconded by Mr. Lewis to approve the agenda. Ms. Smith suggests hearing the Director's report before hearing decision items. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A) October 14, 2021
- B) October 27, 2021 Special Called Meeting

Motion by Ms. Jester and seconded by Ms. Motter to adopt the minutes from previous meetings. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Baker read the rules for public comment.

Public comments of two minutes or less may be made live via the teleconference. For those joining the meeting by telephone, please be aware that your phone number may be displayed to the public viewing or participating in the online meeting. Citizens who attend the meeting via the Zoom link above may join the public comment queue by raising their hand in the Zoom application, while citizens who attend the meeting via telephone may join the comment queue by pressing # followed by 2. There will be no comment cards, so when you are called upon, please state your name and address for the record. Also, please be conscious of speaking time so that everyone has an opportunity to provide input in the allotted time. Abusive, profane, or derogatory language will not be permitted.

The following citizens provided public comment:

- Foris Webb

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- Marci McCarthy
- Judy Sophianopoulos
- Collette Frix

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Hart shared the staff recommendation for early voting hours for the upcoming Runoff. The Board will discuss in detail later during this meeting.

Ms. Hart detailed next steps for the Runoff:

- Submit the ballot to CES (election services) on November 8
- Ballot proof on November 10
- Logic & Accuracy (“L&A”) Testing November 11-14
- Advertise in the AJC five days prior to the election

Ms. Hart reported on the City of Atlanta Annexation. In total, one hundred and sixty-four (164) voters were affected and thirteen (13) voted on Election Day. After the Runoff, the following election procedures will be updated: confirmation procedure for city annexations, election day precinct procedures, and election day security procedures.

Ms. Smith informed the public that the Board has received their observations on the election process. Observations and recommendations will be documented, and the Board will work with the department to implement improvements as quickly as possible in preparation for the Runoff election.

ITEMS FOR DECISION BY THE BOARD

A) Certification of the November 2, 2021 Municipal/Special Election

Motion by Ms. Jester and seconded by Ms. Motter to certify the November 2, 2021 Municipal/Special Election results. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

B) Early Voting Times and Locations for the November 30, 2021 Runoff

Staff recommends the following dates/times and locations for the Runoff:

- November 17 – November 24 from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 20 from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 21 from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Voter Registration & Elections Office
- City of Atlanta, Bessie Branham Recreation Center
- Tucker-Reid H. Cofer Library and/or Stonecrest Library

Ms. Jester suggests holding early voting at both the Tucker and Stonecrest libraries. The Board discussed voting during the upcoming holiday(s). Ms. Swift echoed Ms. Jester’s comment and suggested adding Friday, November 26.

Motion to approve this item is not clear. Ms. Smith asked if Board members are ready to vote and Ms. Jester is the first member to vote on this item. The recommendation is approved by unanimous vote.

Ms. Motter asked if there are any precinct locations that need to be changed for the runoff election. Ms. Motter recalls the Board did not vote to make the temporary precinct changes for the November

3, 2020 Election permanent. The Board discussed which precincts were temporarily changed in 2020 and whether to permanently approve these changes.

Motion by Ms. Motter and seconded by Ms. Jester to approve the permanent relocation of the Lin Mary Lin precinct to the Neighborhood Church located at 1561 Mcclendon Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30307 from the previous location, Mary Lin Elementary School, subject to completion of the notice requirements as recommended by the Law Department. Motion carries by unanimous vote.

Ms. Smith asked for an update on absentee voting. Ms. Hart stated absentee ballots will likely be mailed to voters on November 15 or 16 and a drop box will be available at each location.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Mr. Burton will provide a summary of performance measures after the November 30 Runoff. Mr. Burton made improvements to signage for elderly and disabled voters as requested and is preparing the press release for the runoff along with stakeholder and social media communications.

BOARD COMMENTS

All Board members thanked Ms. Hart, department staff, poll workers and county staff for their hard work. Mr. Lewis hopes staff will take some time off during the upcoming county holidays.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. Jester and seconded by Mr. Lewis to adjourn. This meeting is adjourned.